

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 1 to 27 and 30 and 38.

The above amendment is responsive to points set forth in the Official Action.

With regard to the Election/Restriction bridging pages 2 and 3 of the Official Action, Applicants hereby affirm the election of Group I containing claims 1 to 30, 35 and 37. Withdrawn claims 31 to 34 and 36 have been cancelled without prejudice to the filing of a divisional application therefor.

New claim 38 is directed to specific compounds of formula (1). The basis for this claim can be found on page 22, line 5 to page 23, line 15 of the present specification.

Claims 1 to 6, 8 to 30, 35 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as indefinite.

The rejection of claim 37 as indefinite is moot in view of the cancellation of such claim.

With regard to the rejection of claims 1 and 35 on indefiniteness in the definition of "protective group of carbonyl", this rejection is moot with respect to cancelled claim 35.

With regard to this rejection in connection with claim 1, it is overcome by deleting the term "methylene" on page 17 of the specification, per the Examiner's suggestion.

With regard to the rejection in connection with the term "oxidation" in claim 21, the definition of oxidation is now recited based on the disclosure of pages 60 and 61 of the present specification.

With regard to the rejection of claim 27 as unclear, this has been clarified by incorporating the features of dependent claims 28 and 29 therein, with cancellation of claims 28 and 29.

With regard to the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112 in the last paragraph bridging pages 4 and 5 of the Official Action, the term "wherein the anion in the carboxylate anion is in the form of the salt" has been added to the appropriate locations in claims 1 and 21. The basis for this amendment can be found on page 16, lines 26 to 28 of the present specification.

The rejection of claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph (lack of enablement) on page 5 of the Official Action is moot in view of the cancellation of this claim.

With regard to the comment concerning the Information Disclosure Statement bridging pages 5 and 6 of the Official Action, these references are submitted herewith in a new PTO-1449 and Information Disclosure Statement.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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